

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 18186 211446Z
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
TRSE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 SSO-00 L-03 /028 W
-----027744 211449Z /53

O P 211441Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4459
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 18186

USOECD

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS1
TAGS: ESTC, COCOM
SUBJ: BELGIAN MACHINE TOOLS TO ROMANIA - IL 1091

REFS: A) STATE 140149, B) PARIS 17460

1. USDEL CALLED ON BELGIAN DEL WILLY STEVENS JUNE 17 TO INFORM HIM OF APPROACH PURSUANT TO INSTRUCTIONS PARA 10 REFTTEL A. STEVENS STATED THAT SUCH AN APPROACH WAS TO BE EXPECTED BUT THAT HE COULD NOT PREDICT OUTCOME, PARTICULARLY AS THIS ISSUE WOULD HAVE TO BE DECIDED AT CABINET LEVEL AND THERE WAS NOW A NEW GOVERNMENT. HE AGAIN STATED THAT HIS ORIGINAL INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN TO NOTIFY THE COMMITTEE THAT BELGIUM WOULD ACT AS IF IT'S PROPOSAL ON IL 1091 HAD BEEN ADOPTED, BUT THAT HE HAD TAKEN IT UPON HIMSELF TO TRY AND PRESERVE AT LEAST A SEMBLANCE OF COCOM UNANIMITY. HE ADDED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES HAD SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED HIS ACTION TO SEEK A SIX-MONTH EXEMPTION FROM IL 1091 IN LINE WITH BELGIAN PROPOSAL
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RATHER THAN MERELY NOTIFY COMMITTEE OF ITS INTENTION TO ACT UNILATERALLY AS IF PROPOSAL HAD BEEN APPROVED. AT LEAST ONE OF HIS COCOM COLLEAGUES (USDEL PRESUMES THE FRENCH) EXPRESSED TO HIM HIS DISAPPOINTMENT THAT STEVENS DID NOT TAKE THIS COURSE OF ACTION, HE SAID.

2. STEVENS ARGUED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES, TAKING COGNI-

ZANCE OF THE CONTINUED US DELAY IN STATING A POSITION ON THE ITALIAN EXCEPTION REQUEST FOR MACHINE TOOL EXPORTS TO ROMANIA (COCOM DOC. (77) 50) AS WELL AS THE LENGTHY UNITED STATES RESERVES ON PREVIOUS BELGIAN MACHINE TOOL EXPORTS INCLUDING THE REQUESTS IN COCOM DOCS. (75) 787, (76) 1429 AND (76) 1430, WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE ABLE TO VIEW THE EXCEPTION REQUEST PROCEDURE AS AN APPROPRIATE REMEDY FOR THE CURRENT BELGIAN MACHINE TOOL INDUSTRY CRISIS. HE DID NOT FEEL THAT BELGIANS ACTION IN THIS REGARD SHOULD BE VIEWED AS RADICAL. HE STATE THAT BELGIUM WAS AT LEAST ACTING OPENLY AND HONESTLY. BELGIUM WELL KNEW, HE SAID, THAT CERTAIN MEMBER COUNTRIES WERE ALREADY SHIPPING QUANTITIES OF EMBARGOED MACHINE TOOLS WITHOUT EVEN COMING TO THE COMMITTEE. HIS AUTHORITIES MIGHT WELL RAISE THESE POINTS WHEN APPROACHED BY THE EMBASSY ON THIS TOPIC.

3. FOR BRUSSELS: AS HIS NEW MINISTER WAS PROBABLY UNAWARE OF THIS ISSUE HE SUGGESTED THAT THE EMBASSY MIGHT WISH TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH MR. COECKX OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHO IS IN CHARGE OF COCOM MATTERS.
SALZMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, TOOLS, IL 1091, EXPORT LICENSES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS18186
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770221-0391
Format: TEL
From: PARIS USOECD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770635/aaaabete.tel
Line Count: 91
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6e496479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 140149, 77 PARIS 17460
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2082681
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELGIAN MACHINE TOOLS TO ROMANIA - IL 1091
TAGS: ESTC, BE, RO, US, COCOM
To: BRUSSELS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6e496479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009